Monthly Reports 1953-55

[illegible]

[illegible]

Monthly Report [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

MONTHLY REPORT.

December 1 - 31, 1953.

3rd TAMAULIPAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION.

Though work started slowly because of delays in obtaining equipment, visa, headquarters, etc., I believe we may consider that the expedition has had an auspicious beginning. Work was concentrated in the southwestern portions of the State of Tamaulipas, and a brief excursion was made into San Luis Potosi.

During this time 28 new sites were found in Tamaulipas (thus bringing our total for the state to 250), as well as two in San Luis Potosi. Two of these sites were samll open camps of a fairly recent date, having as yet underfined cultural complexes. Twenty three of the sites contained stone structures, pyramids and ruins. Much of these material show definite relationships to those found at Panuco, but sufficiently different to be considered regional variants in the Huasteca. Two of these sites are fairly late sites much like Ekholm's Period VI. of Panuco and are extremely rich and have many structures. Two sites are like Ekholm's Period II, while the greater majority seem to be some regional variant of Ekholm's Period VI. These more numerous types of sites are characterized by tobacco pipes and large amounts of distinctive engrave pottery which may have some bearing on the problem of Huastec-Caddo prehistoric relationships. Three of the ruins look to be stratified, and one of these about two miles north of Nuevo Morelos may very well have a long (2000 years?) cultural sequence. We hope to be able to test this at some later date.

At one site near Chamal, there was what seemed to be a stone ball court, much further north than any previously known. Unfortunately, heavy undergrowth covered the site and it was impossible to find any sherds on the surface.

However, perhaps more important (from the standpoint of the origin of corn agriculture) than the ruins, were five cave sites. Four of these appear to be worth digging, and two have evidence of preserved vegetable material in their cultural levels. These two caves, near Ocampo, are of such a sensational nature and are so pregnant with possibilities that they se[illegible] worth describing. One of them, T[illegible]-C-247, is about 90 feet lon[illegible] 70 feet wide. Unfortunately, a few small holes of tr[illegible]re hunters have been sunk into their floors, which,

December, 1953, Report. (Con.).

however, did make for rather lucrative surface collecting, as well as examinations of some cross-sections of the refuse. The profiles of the pits dug reveal definite refuse to a depth of four feet, with every indication that it goes down at least another two or three feet (though one of my assistants estimates it goes down to a depth of 10 or 12 feet and he may very well be correct). The refuse is composed of lenses of perfectly preserved vegetable material containing artifacts, separated from each other by layers of ash and cave dust. The lenses (about 15) occur to a depth of three feet and there may very well be others deeper. Surface collections netted about 25 corn cobs (some of quite primitive races), which have been sent to Dr. Mangelsdorf for examination. Also present were a number of artifacts, such as pottery like that of Period II, IV and VI from Panuco, crude scrapers like those from various pre-pottery cultures of the Sierra de Tamaulipas, and a single projectile point (Abasolo Triangular), which is common in the Nogales culture (the ancestor of the La Perra culture which has the world's most primitive maize, but without preserved vegetable materials.

The second cave - TM-C-248 - quite near by TM-C-247, has a double mouth, has a slightly larger floor area than TM-C-247, and may have ten feet of refuse. It also has preserved vegetable materials as well as artifacts similar to those found in the pre-pottery cultures further north.

These two caves have the following possibility, if the single projectile point definitely comes from a Nogales cultural component some 5000 to 7000 years old, and if one of the lenses of dried vegetable matter were laid down by the Nogales people, then there is an extremely good chance of finding fragments of wild maize.

Needless to say, we expect to make our first excavations in these caves. However, we shall not begin excaVAtions until February, because I believe that further survey should be done in southern Tamaulipas, as there is the possibility that better sites may exist in more accessible regions, that would give even greater amounts of information with less expenditure of money and energy.

Dr. Richard S. MacNeish.

MONTHLY REPORT

January 1 - 31, 1954.

3rd TAMAULIPAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION

This was a very poor month from all standpoints, but one has to expect that things will not always run perfectly.

In terms of sites we found only 36 (bringing our total for the season to 64 instead of the 100 I expected to have by February). Of these sites 16 were ruins. These ruins belonged to two general cultures - Huastec and Pueblito. The majority (6) of the Huastec sites were late of the Panuco (VI) Period. Two of the Huastec sites seem to be stratified (Period II to VI) and a few seem to be of the middle periods. Five of the ruins seem to belong to Pueblito culture of either the Laguna or Eslabones Periods. One of these sites - TM-R-302 - might have some stratigraphy.

Of perhaps greatest interest was the fact that on at least one of these ruins of late formative or early classic times, was a well preserved ball court. This example, plus others we have heard of, would seem to indicate the existence of the game of pelote in the northern most part of Meso-America at comparatively early times.

Eight camp sites were discovered. Of these five were pre-pottery, while three had a few sherds on them. One of these sites - TM-C-305, on a high terrace at Rancho Sabino near the coast at Aldama, was extremely rich. It produced a large nuber of projectile points that belong to the Lerma (9000 years old); Nogales (7000-5000) and La Perra (5000-3800) pre-pottery culture complexes. Examination of the vertical banks of a series of pits on the ranch revealed a whole series of thin hearth areas encompassing small areas, but with very few artifacts, or even chips. These, plus the variety of artifact types, indicate that this site was occupied spasmodically by small groups over a number of thousands of years. Since this site is definitely in the Huasteca, and since the area abounds in mammoth bones (sone of which we examined), it would probably be extremely profitable to excavate the site if one's immediate problems were early man in Meso-Americal.

During this month 27 caves were investigated (and many of these were tested.) Only 11 had human remains in them and the majority had late Los Angeles (like) pottery in them. Two are, however, worth further mentioning, and both are in the southeastern most Sierra de Tamaulipas not far from Aldama. TM-C-315 (Cueva Humada) is a large cave with no indication (at least in one small 3-foot deep test hole) of preserved vegetable. It contained only

late Nogales remains in its upper levels, but since there were indications of 10 to 15 feet of refuse, there of course whould be older materials. This cave may be worth further testing, as the peoples of the Nogales culture may very well have been the first users of corn, and somewhere in the cave a few cubic feet of preserved vegetable material may exist. The other cave - TM-C-314- (called Armadillo Cueva) looks rather promising in spite of large amounts of cave fall in its centre, and armadillo burrowing on one side. Surface collections netted Los Angeles and Huastec (II, IV and VI) sherds, as well as one polished sherd, brownish black, with parallel curvilinear engraved lines, that seems to be a trade sherd from the Caddo area, as well as a variety of early chipped artifacts. A test hole 3 feet deep revealed - Los Angeles sherds and points, as well as dried vegetable material occurred in the upper levels. Huastec sherds and Caddo-like engraved sherds and points occurred in the middle level as well as early points; while only chipped materials and few pieces of vegetable materials occurred in the lowest levels. This site has definite possibilities, though it will be difficult to excavate well, and I believe the area of this cave should be further investigated.

Beside actual sites found pictographs occurred at a number of places and some of them were photographed.

To sum up the expedition so far, I believe we may safely say that from the standpoint of the problem of the origin of maize agriculture we have three sites worth excavating. From the standpoint of culture development there seem to be at least five sites worth excavating. Interestingly enough, pre-pottery sites (those sites that should have early corn, seem to be concentrated in the Sierra de Tamaulipas, while the best preservation seems to be in the Ocampo region. Furthermore the Ocampo region seems to be truly within the Meso-American area of cultural development during all of ceramic times, while the Sierra de Tamaulipas is not.

In light of the above facts we have prepared a camp near our best caves near Ocampo and shall begin excavation immediately. This is in the hope that our dry caves TM-C-247 - 248 will have vegetable materials extending back into pre-pottery times. Some survey wil also be done in the immediate areas in the hope that some caves with well preserved food stuffs with mainly pre-pottery remains may be discovered. Later more survey may be done in the Sierra de Tamaulipas for the same kind of material if the Ocampo area does not have said type of remains.

Enclosed with this report is a financial statement for the expedition so far. At present the expedition has spent $3248.97. Of this $1000.00 was for equipment that has a resale value of about $500.00, so the expedition on paper has spent $2748.97. This leaves the expedition with $791.03 on hand, $500.00 in equipment, and $1000.00 forthcoming from Harvard University. Quite frankly, our expenses for this month were about $500.00 over what I originally estimated, and the expedition in the forthcoming month will be sorely needing these funds.

The reasons for this excessive spending (as well as the relatively inadequate surveying) have been numerous, but I shall mention a few of them to indicate that we have been having relatively bad luck. David Kelley, one of the supervisors, fell and broke a rib, which incurred hospital and various medical expenses. The red jeep had to have new pistons, bearing, etc., while the grey jeep has blown two tires and broken two springs, and has had to have a new set of brakes.

I believe, however, that now the expedition has weathered this rather stormy month, that things will start running smoothly and results (perhaps of a sensational nature) will be forthcoming.

The group as a whole, David Kelley, Peter Pratt, Peter Grant, June MacNeish and myself, seem to work very well as a team I have spent a month alone with each of my supervisors, showing them the ropes, and both of them are now quite capable of doing survey alone. I shall be spending further time giving them instruction in digging technique, but I feel both are almost ready to do this alone now. Our camp in the mountains near Ocampo is very good and my crew of local laborers gives every appearance of being an excellent one. Headquarters in Ciudad Victoria, though not very grand, is very adequate. In fact, I cannot help but think that this month, from the archaeological and botanical standpoint, will be very rewarding.

Dr. Richard S. MacNeish.

MONTHLY REPORT

January 1 - 31, 1954.

3rd TAMAULIPAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION.

This was a very poor month from all standpoints, but one has to expect that things will not always run perfectly.

In terms of sites we found only 36 (bringing out total for the season to 64 instead of the 100 I expected to have by February 1). Of these sites 16 were ruins. These ruins belonged to two general cultures - Huastec and Pueblito. The majority (6) of the Huastec sites were late of the Panuco (VI) Period. Two of the Huastec sites seem to be stratified (Period II to VI) and a few seem to be of the middle periods. Five of the ruins seem to belong to Pueblito culture of either the Laguna or Eslabones Periods. One of these sites - TM-R-302 - might have some stratigraphy.

Of perhaps greatest interest was the fact that on at least one of these ruins of late formative or early classic times, was a well preserved ball court. This example, plus others we have heard of, would seem to indicate the existence of the game of pelote in the northern most part of Meso-America at comparatively early times.

Eight camp sites were discovered. Of these five were pre-pottery, while three had a few sherds on them. One of these sites - TM-C-305, on a high terrace at Rancho Sabino near the coast at Aldama, was extremely rich. It produced a large number of projectile points that belong to the Lerma)9,000 years old); Nogales (7000-5000) and La Perra (5000-3800) pre-pottery culture complexes.

Examination of the vertical banks of a series of pits on the ranch revealed a whole series of thin hearth areas encompassing small areas, but with very few artifacts, or even chips. These, plus the variety of artifact types, indicate that this site was occupied spasmodically by small groups over a number of thousands of years. Since this site is definitely in the Huasteca, and since the area abounds in mammoth bones (some of which we examined), it would probably be extremely profitable to excavate the site if one's immediate problems were early man in Meso-America.

During this month 27 caves were investigated (and many of these were tested). Only 11 had human remains in them and the majority hade late Los Angeles (like) pottery in them. Two are, however, worth further mentioning, and both are in the southeastern most Sierra de Tamaulipas not far from Aldama. TM-C-315 (Cueva Humada) is a large cave with no indication (at least in one small 3-foot deep test hole) of preserved vegetable. It contained only

late Nogales remains in its upper levels, but since there were indications of 10 to 15 feet of refuse, there of course should be older materials. This cave may be worth further testing, as the peoples of the Nogales culture may very well have been the first users of corn, and somewhere in the cave a few cubic feet of preserved vegetable materiad may exist. The other cave - TM-C-314 - (called Armadillo Cueva) looks rather promising in spite of large amounts of cave fall in its centre, and armadillo burrowing on one side. Surface collections netted Los Angeles and Huastec (II, IV and VI) sherds, as well as one polished sherd, brownish black, with parallel curvilinear engraved lines, that seems to be a trade sherd from the Caddo area, as well as a variety of early chipped artifacts. A test hole 3 feet deep revealed - Los Angeles sherds and points, as well as dried vegetable material ~~material~~ occurred in the upper levels. Huasted sherds ~~or~~ and Caddo-like engraved sherds and points occurred in the middle level as well as early points; while only chipped materials and few pieces of vegetable materials occurred in the lowest levels. This site has definite possibilities, though it will be difficult to excavate well, and I believe the area of this cave should be further investigated.

Beside actual sites found pictographs occurred at a number of places and some of them were photographed.

To sum up the expedition so far, I believe we may safely say that from the standpoint of the problem of the origin of maize agriculture we have three sites worth excavating. From the standpoint of culture development there seem to be at least five sites worth excavating. Interestingly enough, pre-pottery sites (those sites that should have early corn) seem to be concentrated in the Sierra de Tamaulipas, while the best preservation seems to be in the Ocampo region. Furthermore the Ocampo region seems to be truly within the Meso-American area of cultural development during all of ceramic times, while the Sierra de Tamaulipas is not.

In light of the above facts we have prepared a camp near our best caves near Ocampo and shall begin excavation immediately. This is in the hope that our dry caves TM-C-247 - 248 will have vegetable materials extending back into pre-pottery times. Some survey will also be done in the immediate areas in the hope that some caves with well preserved food stuffs with many pre-pottery remains may be discovered. Later more survey may be done in the Sierra de Tamaulipas for the same kind of material if the Ocampo area does not have said type of remains.

Enclosed with this report is a financial statement for the expedition so far. At present the expedition has spent $3,248.97. Of this $1000.00 was for equipment that has a resale value of about $500.00, so the expedition on paper has spent $2,748.97. This leaves the expedition with $791.03 on hand, $500.00 in equipment, and $1,000.00 forthcoming from Harvard University. Quite frankly, our expenses for this month were about $500.00 over what I originally estimated, and the expedition in the forthcoming month will be sorely needing these funds.

The reasons for this excessive spending (as well as the relatively inadequate surveying) have been numerous, but I shall mention a few of them to indicate that we have been having relatively bad luck. David Kelley, one of the supervisors, fell and broke a rib, which incurred hospital and various medical expenses. The red jeep had to have new pistons, bearing, etc., while the grey jeep has blown two tires and broken two springs, and has had to have a new set of brakes.

I believe, however, that now the expedition has weathered this rather stormy month, that things will start running smoothly and results (perhaps of a sensational nature) will be forthcoming.

The group as a whole, David Kelley, Peter Pratt, Peter Grant, June MacNeish and myself, seem to work very well as a team. I have spent a month alone with each of my supervisors, showing them the ropes, and both of them are now quite capable of doing survey alone. I shall be spending further time giving them instruction in digging technique, but I feel both are almost ready to do this alone now. Our camp in the mountains near Ocampo is very good and my crew of local laborers gives every appearance of being an excellent one. Headquarters in Ciudad Victoria, though not very grand, is very adequate. In fact, I cannot help but think that this month, from the archaeological and botanical standpoint, will be very rewarding.

Richard S. MacNeish

Dr. Richard S. MacNeish.

MONTHLY REPORT.

February 1 - 28, 1954.
3rd TAMAULIPAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION.

This month was a most spectacular one for the expedition. Not only were 17 more sites found, bringing the expedition's total to 101 sites for the season, but three of these sites were cave sites with fine prospects of preserved vegetable remains. Beside these caves five others of lesser importance were discovered. as were 3 Huastic ruins, 3 Pueblito ruins and 3 open sites.

However, of considerably more importance than the survey was the completion of the excavation of Site TM-C-247 (called Romero's Cave). Thirty two five-foot squares were excavated to a depth of 3 to 5 feet, at which depth the cave floor was encountered. In this 3 to 5-foot deep deposition 17 distinct stratified layers were found, 10 of which represented aboriginal occupations for some length of time. In all these 10 refuse strata were found preserved vegetable materials, as well as stone and bone tools, and in the upper five pottery. As yet the materials have neither been counted or catalogued, but a rough estimate would be that there are 100 shoe boxes of vegetable materials (some 100,000 individual specimens of various species, etc.), 15,000 corn specimens, 10,000 squash specimens, 200 bean specimens, 500 potsherds, 1,000 pieces of string, 500 waven mat fragments, 300 projectile points, 400 other stone tools, 50 bone tools, 25 fragments of net, 8 baskets, 6 wooden tools, and 6 mummies. This represents a tremendous sample of archaeological materials from 10 stratified levels, which upon analysis should allow for excellent reconstructions of a developing subsistence pattern, and the concomitant economic and social evaluation of a prehistoric peoples.

As yet no analysis has been undertaken, but the ten occupations appear to belong to at least five distinctive periods. At present the following sequence seems to be correct (this preliminary reconstruction is of course only based upon my observation as the materials were exhumed, and therefore is subject to change without notice.

V. The latest period (comprising the first and 2nd occupational layers) is characterized by a subsistence pattern based on corn (modern types), bean and squash agriculture, supplemented by plant gathering and a little hunting. Arrow shafts are of cane while the points are mainly small and triangular, while large crude flint scrapers and choppers of limestone occur. Pottery is crude, being mainly black, brushed and corrugated wares. Woven cotten occurs, as do baskets, string, nets, knots and woven palm mats. Cane cigarettes and clay pipes were smoked. Trade

sherds are from the latest materials of the Huasteca (Period VI) and general affinities seem to be with the Los Angeles Focus (Pasitas Tribe) of the Sierra de Tamaulipas to the east.

IV. The second period (comprised of Occupations 3 and 4), seems to represent a people also with a subsistence pattern based on corn (primitive modern types), beans and squash agriculture that was coupled with food gathering and some hunting. Hunting seems to have been mainly done by the bow and cane arrows, tipped by small triangular, leaf-shaped, serrated, corner and side-notched points. However, a few large points and wood shafts indicate the lance and atlatl to have been used. Pottery seems to be mainly a brushed and polished black ware. Cigarettes of cane were smoked. Nets, mats, ponchos, baskets, string, rope, tump lines, sandals and carrying nets were made. Burials were in grass-lined pits, flexed and wound tightly inside petates (Mats) by rope. Trade sherds indicate affinities with Period IV of the Huasteca.

III. This period is only represented by Occupation 5, but Occupation 5, particularly in the back of the cave, is extremely thick and rich. Subsistence seems to be mainly based upon plant gethering and supplemented by corn (primitive types - Early Nal-tel?), and squash (and perhaps bean) agriculture. Hunting also occurred and while only lance fragments occurred, small roughly triangular points and leaf-shaped points indicate the bow and arrow may have been in use. Baskets, mats, string and nets occur and pottery, a polished brown and black ware (El Prisco Black) occurs. Burials are usually flexed on their sides over and under mats. Affiliations seem to be with Period II of the Huasteca.

II. The second period is represented by Layers 6 and 7. Subsistence is almost entirely based on food-gathering, while a few squash (gourd) fragments, and a few very primitive corn cobs indicate some incipient agriculture. Hunting undoubtedly occurred and longer leaf or triangular points indicate the use of the atlatl or lance, but a few small leaf-shaped points occurred. Baskets, mats, nets and string occur, as do flint scrapers and choppers. Extra-areal affiliation seems to be with La Perra to the east.

I. The earliest period is represented by Levels 8, 9 and 10. Here the only evidences of agriculture are a few squash seeds and stems (and one very doubtful corncob), and the subsistence seems to have been mainly based on food gathering and hunting. Projectile points are characteristically large or small leaf-shaped ones, while a number of flint scrapers, choppers and knives appear. One wooden harpoon also occurred. Large antler flakes also occurred (probably of some extinct species of deer), as did fragments of woven mats. In a general way the materials, on the basis of some of the projectile points, in these lowest layers, might be related to, or derived from, Nogales further to the east.

As yet, not enough analysis has been done to date these five periods, or to correlate them with adjacent areas. However, there seems to be two distinct possibilities. The first possibility is that these five periods represent cultural lag and a single developing culture giving rise to Los Angeles of the Sierra de Tamaulipas. The continuity of scrapers, projectile points, string, mats and burialtypes, as well as the geographic position, are strong arguments for such a hypothesis. In such a correlation the first two periods would occur during Late Formative and Early Classic (500 to 1000 A.D.); and the fourth and fifth periods would be between 1000 A.D. and 1750 A.D.

The other possibility isthat we have a very long sequence of different traditions in the cave, with considerable temporal gaps between each occupation and period. The lack of corn and beans in the earlier levels, as well as the larger leaf-shaped projectile points like those found in the Nogales culture (7000 to 5000 years old) in the Sierra de Tamaulipas are arguments for such. This reconstruction would see the first period as being some 5000 years old and probably derived from some culture like Nogales of the Sierra de Tamaulipas. Period II with its incipient agriculture would be roughly equated with La Perra of the Sierra de Tamaulipas some 4000 to 5000 years old. Period III would roughly be equivalent to the Formative Period of Mexico 2000 to 4000 years old; while Period IV would be roughly of Classic times 1000 to 2000 years old; while Period V would be Post-Classic from 1000 to 1750 A.D. If the second hypothesis is correct, then we are well on our way to solving the problem of the origin of (corn) agriculture and the development of civilization in at least one part of Meso-America. Let me say that my personal guess is that the "Cultural Lag" hypothesis (the first one presented here), is the most likely explanation of these rich cave materials. However, only long months of analysis, calling upon the services of botanists, geologists, physicists and anthropologists; can tell us which possibility is correct.

Now with this extremely successful month under our belt we shall start what I hope will be an even better one. Plans call for further excavation in a cave adjacent to the one just excavated in the Ocampo region. A second group will be examining and excavating two caves with possible vegetable materials near Aldama in the Sierra de Tamaulipas; while I hope to do some surveying in the Sierra de Tamaulipas, not far from where the world's (earliest - 4,445 ± 280 years) most primitive corn was uncovered in La Perra Cave in the Canyon Diablo. It is hoped that in April excavation may also occur in that region.

Dr. Richard S. MacNeish.

THIRD TAMAULIPAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION: Monthly Report
March 1954

Our successes of the month of February continued into March. Survey almost stopped (though we did find our 338th site) and our efforts were concentrated on excavations. Excavations occured in two areas, the Sierra de Tamaulipas and the Sierra Madre Oriental near Ocampo (the area of the previous month's excavation).

In the southernmost part of the Sierra de Tamaulipas two excavations were undertaken. Peter Pratt excavated in Armadillo Cave (Tm c 314). This was a large cave which appeared to have preserved vegetal materials, and a surface collection netted artifacts from a variety of cultures. However, the excavation was not overly fruitful as the refuse was not very deep (maximum 1.5 feet), and the vegetable remains were confined almost entirely to the top layer, a component of the Los Angeles Focus (the latest in the Sierra de Tamaulipas sequence, 1450-1750 A.D.). There were, however, stratigraphically older materials (La Perra and Nogales Foci) that further confirmed the sequence established in the Canyon Diablo excavations of 1949. The re-affirmation of the Canyon Diablo sequence, plus the fact that we now have materials that will yield a good estimate of the subsistence pattern of the Los Angeles Focus (that can be compared with those of the earlier Laguna (2000 years old) and La Perra (4000 years old) Foci) are definite contributions. Neither of these kinds of information, however, contiubute to the problem of the origin of maize.

The other excavation in the Sierra de Tamaulipas was in Cueva Humada (Tm c 315). Unfortunately, in this cave except for a few pieces of carbon no vegetable remains occurred. Nevertheless, the cave was extremely lucrative in terms of stone artifacts and it yielded a new cultural complex stratigraphically above La Perra materials, from which it seems to have developed. This new culture, called the Almagre complex, is particularly important as it not only partially fills one of the gaps in the Sierra de Tamaulipas sequence as well as showing some resemblance in stone artifacts to the later pottery-using Laguna Focus but it also has very obvious connections with the cultures of Texas of the 2000 to 4000 year old period. That is, it has the same types of stemmed and corner-notched projectile points. Thus our Sierra de Tamaulipas sequence can now be expanded to read (top late, bottom early)

Los Angeles

La Salta
Eslabones
Laguna

Almagre
La Perra
Nogales

Lerma

Diablo

Since Cueva Humada is only some 40 miles from Panuco, Veracruz, where very early village materials have been found, this new Almagre complex is very encouraging as it gives us hope that we may soon find the cultural components between the pre-pottery Almagre complex and the late Formative Laguna. This would give a continuus developmental sequence from about 5000 B. C. to 1000 A. D. and would indicate what the culture of the firt pottery-makers and village-dwellers were. I deeply hope that another season may be spent in this area. I feel certain that with a little luck, time and effort the whole sequence, with preserved vegetable material (thereby indicating subsistence patterns and economic systems) could be discovered.

- - - - - - - - - -

The second group of excavations occurred in Canyon Infiernillo in the Sierra Madre in the municipio of Ocampo. Here one major excavation took place in Cave Tm c 248, while further testing continued in Tm c 247 and refuse in the nearby ruins, Tm r 246, was exhumed. The materials from the ruins are of some interest in that they are obivously indentical to those Du Solier uncovered at Buenavista, S.L.P., and similar to what Ekholm found at Panuco in Huastec Period IV (500-1000 A. D.). These materials include mold-made figurines, pipes and engraved black and brown pottery.

Excavations in Tm C 247 added little to our already full data (see previous monthly reports). They did, however, reveal that the maximum number of layers in the cave were 21 (20 being cultural), and that eleven contained vegetable material. Also, these excavations reveal that beans and squash occurred in all but the earliest layers.

Since David Kelly excavated Tm c 248, I am here quoting his progress report on that cave:

> Excavation of Tm c 248. Excavation of this cave revealed 8 levels widely deposited throughout the cave. The oldest is a gravel deposit, evenly distributed over nearly the entire bottom of the cave. In one or two places it overlies a red clay. Three artifacts came from deep, apparently undisturbed portions of the gravel, but there were no obvious similarities to artifacts known from other areas. A few bones were also found in this deposit, but were very rare. Immediately above this, a brownish and usually thick vegetable layer was present. Giant deer teeth were found in this level, as well as string, a netted bag, one large part of a mat and some smaller pieces, an atlatl foreshaft and other artifacts. Bones and snail shells were common. No corn was found in this level, but seeds of some member of the squash family and, to our surprise, what seemed to be beans. Subsequent checking of materials previously excavated in Tm c 247 indicated that beans, although very rare, occurred there also in one of the early periods of occupation, although not common until much later and absent from the earliest levels.

In some places this usually apparently homogenous deposit divided into as much as four thin vegetable layers separated by ash layers. Level 6, above this, was a yellowish earth, containing occasional vegetable materials. Level 5 was normally a thin burnt vegetable layer, separated in places from Level 6 by several lenses of ash and vegetable layers. In Level 5 was found a Tortugas Triangular point, the only clearly identifiable point found properly in situ in the occupation level where it belonged.

Level 4 was usually a thick gray ash, containing sometimes up to three vegetable layers, but usually without vegetable remains. Level 3 was a thick vegetable layer. None of these levels contained either corn or pottery of any type, and all contained large amounts of bone and snail shells, as well as occasional squash and beans. Large crude flake and core choppers were frequent in all levels, especially in the earliest. Pieces of mats and string were, except for the choppers, the commonest evidence of human occupation. All these levels seem to correspond to the pre-corn occupation of the adjacent cave Tm c 247, although the occupation of Tm c 248 may have begun somewhat earlier.

Level 2 is a gray ash layer, containing relatively modern corn and plain undecorated pottery. In very large sections of the cave this ash formed pits, cutting through all the other levels down to the gravel. Unfortunately most of the lance and arrow-points came from this ash and were clearly derived from earlier, destroyed deposits. Level 1 was a vegetable layer, dividing in places into three lenses and apparently corresponding to a late Los Angeles Focus occupation. No serrated points were found in this cave, and I believe that both the pottery levels are subsequent to the period when these points were used. The mummified body of a child was encountered in a gray ash level apparently corresponding to Level 2, but possibly to Level 1. (Kelly)

It is possible that these caves with their apparently pre-maize levels may be very important from the standpoint of the problem of the origin of maize agriculture, for the study of thes materials from these earliest levels by botanists may possibly reveal wild maize too primitive for our untrained eyes to recognize.

- - - - - - - - - - -

Unfortunately, valuable time was lost this month due to the press, which gave our finds considerable (and in some instances insultingly false) publicity, which brought hundreds of sight-seers to our headquarters in Victoria.

The final days of March say the depletion of the expedition's research grants. At present, $900 of my personal savings have been contributed to the expedition. However, the DeKalb Hybrid Corn Company has contributed $500 and Time magazine, in return for a guided tour and story, has agreed, through its Mexican correspondent Robert Lubar, to contribute between $400 and $500. Besides these funds, I have sold one jeep and dismissed one field supervisor (and his salary), so I shall be able to complete April's excavations.

Plans for April call for the completion of excavation in Tm c 289 and testing of three small caves nearby that appear to have vegetable materials in them. Besides that, it is hoped that the refuse of a small late Formative period ruin may be tested, as well as the refuse of a large stratified village site. In the final half of the month, Dr. Manglesdorf of Harvard will visit us to study the maize specimens, and during this time I hope to be packing and storing our materials. No attempt will be made to further catalogue or study our finds this year, so I am asking permission of the Instituto de Antropologia e Historia to store my materials in a safe place in Ciudad Victoria until I return in January, 1955. Next winter analysis will begin and a few further excavations may be undertaken in order to fill in various gaps. I may, if it is so wished, send the most intact mummy discovered (which I have opened, photographed, and studied) and an exhibit of the evolution of corn from the La Perra cave, prepared by Dr. P. C. Manglesdorf, to the Museo Nacional for exhibit purposes.

R. S. MacNeish
Matamoros 238
Ciudad Victoria
Tamaulipas, Mexico

THIRD TAMAULIPAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION: Monthly Report
March 1954

Our successes of the month of February continued into March. Survey almost stopped (though we did find our 338th site) and our efforts were concentrated on excavations. Excavations occured in two areas, the Sierra de Tamaulipas and the Sierra Madre Oriental near Ocampo (the area of the previous month's excavation).

In the southernmost part of the Sierra de Tamaulipas two excavations were undertaken. Peter Pratt excavated in Armadillo Cave (Tm c 314). This was a large cave which appeared to have preserved vegetal materials, and a surface collection netted artifacts from a variety of cultures. However, the excavation was not overly fruitful as the refuse was not very deep (maximum 1.5 feet), and the vegetable remains were confined almost entirely to the top layer, a component of the Los Angeles Focus (the latest in the Sierra de Tamaulipas sequence, 1450-1750 A.D.). There were, however, stratigraphically older materials (La Perra and Nogales Foci) that further confirmed the sequence established in the Canyon Diablo excavations of 1949. The re-affirmation of the Canyon Diablo sequence, plus the fact that we nowhave materials that will yield agood estimate of the subsistence pattern of the Los Angeles Focus (that can be compared with those of the earlier Laguna (2000 years old) and La Perra (4000 years old) Foci) are definite contributions. Neither of these kinds of information, however, contiubute to the problem of the origin of maize.

The other excavation in the Sierrade Tamaulipas was in Cueva Humada (Tm c 315). Unfortunately, in this cave except for a few pieces of carbon no vegetable remains occurred. Nevertheless, the cave was extremely lucrative in terms of stone artifacts and it yielded a new cultural complex stratigraphically above La Perra materials, from which it seems to have developed. Thisnew culture, called the Almagre complex, isparticularly important as it not only partially fills one of the gaps in the Sierra de Tamaulipas sequence as well as showing some resemblance in stone artifacts to the later pottery-using Laguna Focus but it also has very obvious connections with the cultures of Texas of the 2000 to 4000 year old period. That is, it has the same types of stemmed and corner-notched projectile points. Thus our Sierra de Tamaulipas sequence can now be expanded to read (top late, bottom early)

Los Angeles

La Salta
Eslabones
Laguna

Almagre
La Perra
Nogales

Lerma

Diablo

Since Cueva Humada is only some 40 miles from Panuco, Veracruz, where very early village materials have been found, thisnew Almagre complex is very encouraging as it gives us hope that we may soon find the cultural components between the pre-pottery Almagre complex and the late Formative Laguna. This would give a continuus developmental sequence from about 5000 B. C. to 1000 A. D. and would indicate what the culture of the firt pottery-makers and village-dwellers were. I deeply hope that another season may be spent in this area. I feel certain that with a little luck, time andeffort the whole sequence, with preserved vegetable material (thereby indicating subsistence patterns and economic systems) could be discovered.

- - - - - - - - - -

The second group ofexcavations occurred in Canyon Infiernillo in the Sierra Madre in the municipio of Ocampo. Here one major excavation took place in Cave Tm c 248, while further testing continued in Tm c 247 and refuse in the nearby ruins, Tm r 246, was exhumed. The materials from the ruins are of some interest in that they are obivously indentical to those Du Solier uncovered at Buenavista, S.L.P., and similar to what Ekholm found at Panuco in Huastec Period IV (500-1000 A. D.). These materials include mold-made figurines, pipes and engraved black and brown pottery.

Excavations in Tm C 247 added little to our already full data (see previous monthly reports). They did, however, reveal that the maximum number of layers in the cave were 21 (20 being cultural), and that eleven contained vegetable material. Also, these excavations reveal that beans and squash occurred in all but the earliest layers.

Since David Kelly excavated Tm c 248, I am here quoting his progress report on that cave:

> Excavation of Tm c 248. - Excavation of thiscave revealed 8 levels widely deposited throughout the cave. The oldest is a gravel deposit, evenly distributed over nearly theentire bottom of the cave. In one or two places it overlies a red clay. Three artifacts came from deep, apparently undisturbed portions of the gravel, but there were no obvious similarities to artifacts known from other areas. A fewbones were also found in this deposit, but were very rare. Immediately above this, a brownish and usually thick vegetable layer was present. Giant deer teeth were found in this level, as well as string, a netted bag, one large part of a mat and some smaller pieces, an atlatl foreshaft and other artifacts. Bones and snail shells were common. No corn was found in this level, but seeds of some member of the squash family and, to our surprise, what seemed to be beans. Subsequent checking of materials previously excavated in Tm c 247 indicated that beans, although very rare, occurred there also in one of the early periods of occupation, although not common until much later and absent from the earliest levels.

In some places this usually apparently homogenous deposit divided into as much as four thin vegetable layers separated by ash layers. Level 6, above this, was a yellowish earth, containing occasional vegetable materials. Level 5 was normally a thin burnt vegetable layer, separated in places from Level 6 by several lenses of ash and vegetable layers. In Level 5 was found a Tortugas Triangular point, the only clearly identifiable point found properly in situ in the occupation level where it belonged.

Level 4 was usually a thick gray ash, containing sometimes up to three vegetable layers, but usually without vegetable remains. Level 3 was a thick vegetable layer. None of these levels contained either corn or pottery of any type, and all contained large amounts of bone and snail shells, as well as occasional squash and beans. Large crude flake and core choppers were frequent in all levels, especially in the earliest. Pieces of mats and string were, except for the choppers, the commonest evidence of human occupation. All these levels seem to correspond to the pre-corn occupation of the adjacent cave Tm c 247, although the occupation of Tm c 248 may have begun somewhat earlier.

Level 2 is a gray ash layer, containing relatively modern corn and plain undecorated pottery. In very large sections of the cave this ash formed pits, cutting through all the other levels down to the gravel. Unfortunately most of the lance and arrow-points came from this ash and were clearly derived from earlier, destroyed deposits. Level 1 was a vegetable layer, dividing in places into three lenses and apparently corresponding to a late Los Angeles Focus occupation. No serrated points were found in this cave, and I believe that both the pottery levels are subsequent to the period when these points were used. The mummified body of a child was encountered in a gray ash level apparently corresponding to Level 2, but possibly to Level 1. (Kelly)

It is possible that these caves with their apparently pre-maize levels may be very important from the standpoint of the problem of the origin of maize agriculture, for the study of thes materials from these earliest levels by botanists may possibly reveal wild maize too primitive for our untrained eyesto recognize.

- - - - - - - - - - -

Unfortunately, valuable time was lost this month due to the press, which gave our finds considerable (and in some instances insultingly false) publicity, which brought hundreds of sight-seers to our headquarters in Victoria.

The final days of March say the depletion of the expedition's research grants. At present, $900 of my personal savings have been contributed to the expedition. However, the DeKalb Hybrid Corn Company has contributed $500 and Time magazine, in return for a guided tour and story, has agreed, through its Mexican correspondent Robert Lubar, to contribute between $400 and $500. Besides these funds, I have sold one jeep and dismissed one field supervisor (and his salary), so I shall be able to complete April's excavations.

In such places this usually economically homogeneous deposit divides into six such to four thin vegetable layers separated by sub layers. Layer 6, above-site, has a pallid-brown marly, unstratified consistency vegetable material. Layer 5 was actually a thin burnt vegetable layer, separated in places from Level 4 by several inches of sub and vegetable layers. In Level 5 was found a tuffo-ash fragment point, the only clearly identifiable point found anywhere in this in a position level where it belonged.

Level 4 was usually a thick grey ash, containing occasionally a dense vegetable layer, but usually a loose vegetable remains. Level 3 was a thick vegetable layer. Some of these layers contained visible burnt or partly or may have, and all contained large amounts of charcoal and ashy objects, as well as occasional animal and bones. Large stone tools and some chipped were found in all levels, especially in the upper. Flake of stone and stone were, except for the obsidian, the commonest artifacts of stone manufacture. All these levels seem to correspond to the pre-dam occupation of the village even in a dry, although the commencing of the dam may have begun somewhat earlier.

Level 2 is a grey ash layer, containing relatively scarce bits and stone manufacture pieces. In many places traces of the dam only with formal site, cutting through all the other levels down to the gravel. Unfortunately most of the bones and arrow-points came from this and were clearly derived from earlier, destroyed deposits. Level 1 was a vegetable layer, dividing in places into three layers and apparently corresponding to a late Inca or post Inca occupation. In stratigraphic points that could be held as above, but I believe that both the pottery levels are subsequent to the period when their points were used. The quantities only of a child was actually in a grey ash level apparently corresponding to Level 2, but possibly to Level 1. (Sally)

In the practice case there were risk their economically occupation lively say in very specifics from the absolutist of the provision of the relics of meins occupations, for the sity of lines materials from this activity levels by comparis the possibly novel wild meins can obtains the our mutual quarts analogies.

- - - - - - - - - - -

Unfortunately, valuable time was lost into which due to the press, which gave our finds considerable [illegible] in such instances tangibly field publicity, which brought hundreds of sight-seers to our head-quarters in Tiahuanaco.

The final days of March saw the completion of the expedition's planned policy. In summary, 3000 of my personal artifacts have been [illegible] to the expedition. However, the small [illegible] Dos-pacy has contributed 2000 and Tiahuanaco, in return for a mutual [illegible] and [illegible], has agreed, through its [illegible] [illegible] Lima, to [illegible] [illegible] 1000 [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible], I have with [illegible] and [illegible] one [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], so I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Plans for April call for the completion of excavation in Tm c 289 and testing of three small caves nearby that appear to have vegetable materials in them. Besides that, it is hoped that the refuse of a small late Formative period ruin may be tested, as well as the refuse of a large stratified village site. In the final half of the month, Dr. Manglesdorf of Harvard will visit us to study the maize specimens, and during this time I hope to be packing and storing our materials. No attempt will be made to further catalogue or study our finds this year, so I am asking permission of the Instituto de Antropologia e Historia to store my materials in a safe place in Ciudad Victoria until I return in January, 1955. Next winter analysis will begin and a few further excavations may be undertaken in order to fill in various gaps. I may, if it is so wished, send the most intact mummy discovered (which I have opened, photographed, and studied) and an exhibit of the evolution of corn from the La Perra cave, prepared by Dr. P. C. Manglesdorf, to the Museo Nacional for exhibit purposes.

R. S. MacNeish
Matamoros 238
Ciudad Victoria
Tamaulipas, Mexico

Monthly Report Business [illegible]
January [illegible]

~~[illegible] pages [illegible]~~
~~and [illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~

5

6